

TITLE: NHANES I Epidemiologic Follow up Study

ACRONYM: NHEFS

AGENCY/PROGRAM: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DESCRIPTION: **NHANES I Epidemiologic Follow-Up Study**

The NHANES I Epidemiologic Follow-up Study (NHEFS) is a national longitudinal study that was jointly initiated by the National Center for Health Statistics and the National Institute on Aging in collaboration with other agencies of the Public Health Service. The NHEFS was designed to investigate the relationships between clinical, nutritional, and behavioral factors assessed in the first National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey NHANES I and subsequent morbidity, mortality, and hospital utilization, as well as changes in risk factors, functional limitation, and institutionalization.

The NHEFS cohort includes the 14,407 persons 25–74 years of age who completed a medical examination at NHANES I in 1971–75 (n=14,407). It is comprised of a series of follow-up studies. The first wave of data collection was conducted from 1982 through 1984 for all members of the NHEFS cohort. Interviews were conducted in person and included blood pressure and weight measurements. Continued follow-ups of the NHEFS population were conducted by telephone in 1986 (limited to persons age 55 and over at baseline), 1987, and 1992.

Participant tracing and data collection rates in the NHEFS have been very high. Ninety-six percent of the study population has been successfully traced at some point through the 1992 epidemiologic follow-up survey period. While persons examined in NHANES I were all under age 75 at baseline, by 1992 more than 4,000 of the NHEFS subjects had reached age 75, providing a valuable group for examining the aging process. All NHEFS Public use data files are available via the Internet and CD-Rom. NHEFS data files contain information on vital and tracing status, subject and proxy interviews, health care facility stays in hospitals and nursing homes, and mortality data from death certificates. All NHEFS Public Use Data can be linked to the NHANES I Public Use Data.

PROJECT STATUS: While no full-scale interview re-contacts are currently planned for this cohort, mortality data collection is scheduled to continue indefinitely. NCHS will continue collecting cause of death information for the NHEFS cohort by matching records to the National Death Index. NCHS has produced a continued mortality follow-up file containing death information through 2000, which extends the NHEFS mortality follow-up period to twenty-five+ years.

LINK TO STUDY WEBSITE:

[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/elec\\_prods/subject/nhefs.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/elec_prods/subject/nhefs.htm)

KEYWORDS: Longitudinal, NHANES, Aging, Morbidity, Mortality, Functional Status

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HOW TO ACCESS DATA: Public Use data files available with NCHS standard data use restrictions agreement for data collected under PHS Act Section 308(d).

Available Data Products: NHANES I Epidemiologic Follow-up Study: 1982-84, 1986, 1987, 1992, NHEFS Continued Mortality Follow-up: 2000

CD-ROM available from NCHS (request through <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>)  
Free file download available at  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh/ftpserv/ftpdata/ftpdata.htm>